

**From:** Daniel Andrade  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/18/02 5:27pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Representative of the American Justice System:

I write this letter because of concern for my livelihood. I am a computer professional, and have worked with computers and operating systems from a number of vendors since the earliest days of personal computers, and I must say that the Microsoft case has held my attention because it is a case of landmark importance for the security, and financial future of the United States, and the world.

Microsoft holds a vast market share of the personal computer operating system market and there is nothing wrong with that. However, their means of maintaining this dominance has been found illegal, and there are other issues with Microsoft software that need to be addressed if they are to continue holding a monopoly.

First and foremost they must conform to standard networking protocols. Additional features can then be built into an application, but the base application must operate no matter what operating system is being used.

Second, they need to make freely available the formats for their proprietary file formats. Users have been forced into upgrades of software packages that cost as much as hardware for a new computer because they will not be able to read files if they do not upgrade. This is tantamount to price fixing and the exact reason that monopolies are so keenly watched, and closely regulated.

Third, the security of their products needs to be reviewed by outside sources. Microsoft has continually pledged to improve their security, and year after year they release software that subjects even non-Microsoft users to attacks, and intrusions. All of the major Internet security issues such as Code Red, Code Blue, Nimda, Love Letter, Kournikova, Melissa, and more have been based on "features" that Microsoft did not take the time to perfect or secure. Their email server retails for over \$6000 and can not even close a major security hole related to sending spam without customization. Qmail is an open source product available for free download that has no known security holes and a standing offer to pay anyone that can find such a hole \$500.

In summary, if you take away the ability of Microsoft to write programs that will only work with other Microsoft products, truly fair competition can finally occur, this will not be achieved through splitting the company, or "giving" software to schools that Microsoft did not have to purchase at a retail price in the first place. In fact,

schools are one of the few non-Microsoft dominated markets and it would be a shame to actually extend the monopoly into untapped markets as part of the settlement.

What needs to be done, is to have Microsoft publish the source code for any proprietary modifications that they make to widely held standards such as the C++ programming language, Domain Name Services networking protocols, or the most recent core of their .Net products Xstensible Markup Language.

In addition, Microsoft operating systems should be as much more expensive when you buy them with a computer, as when you buy an upgrade, or original retail copy. Tacking one to two hundred dollars onto the price of a Windows PC will be cause for the average consumer to reconsider participating in a monopoly, and would leave a very real window of opportunity for other vendors to secure a market share in the operating system arena.

When a security flaw is found in a Microsoft product that endangers businesses livelihood on the Internet the source code should be released for public examination. In this way threats to public, and national security can be abated with a thorough testing. Instead of a never ending series of repairs after the opening is already being maliciously exploited to cause network outages, or data loss.

These suggestions would be good for the country, good for consumers, and a bitter, but much needed remedy for the problems of Microsoft that caused this antitrust action to be taken in the first place. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

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